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WILLIAM GREEN, President

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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FRANK MORRISON, Secretary

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Editorials

A Sound Decision

The labor section of the National Industrial Recovery Act declares that employees coming under code of fair competition "shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives."

From the inception of the codes, company-union and other antiunion employers have violated the plain mandate of the Act. They have used "interference, restraint, or coercion" in elections held for employees to choose their representatives. Gradually the National Labor Board, vested by the President of the United States with complete authority to supervise elections, is meeting this issue in decisions on specific cases setting forth just what employee activities are outlawed by the statute.

One of these activities is cited in the order of the board annulling the first election held at the plant of the Hughes Tool Company of Houston, Texas, and ordering a new election under the supervision of the New Orleans Regional Labor Board.

In the first election the ballots specified a straight vote on the issue of the organization to represent the employees, many of whom had joined the International Association of Machinists. The ballot called for a vote for the "Employees' Welfare Organization of the Hughes Tool Company" (a company union) or for the "American Federation of Labor."

Before the election Colonel R. C. Kuldell, president of the company, issued a circular advising the workers which way to vote. He declared that if representatives of an outside union were chosen the company would put limitations on its dealing with them, and even threatened victimization of trade unionists if a majority of the employees voted for the A. F. of L. union.

One paragraph of the circular contained the following:

"Whether justified or not, the fact is none the less real that there exists in the minds and hearts of your foremen, superintendent, manager, and general manager, an antipathy to the professional organizer and representative."

The circular then stated that employment relations in the company's plant are purely personal and added that it was very unfortunate for employees to jeopardize their interests by electing representatives who were not favored by the foremen and officials. Colonel Kuldell did not mince his words. He bluntly told the workers that company officials and supervisors would grant favorable consideration of employees' requests if they voted against the A. F. of L. union and for the company union.

"There being, therefore, older men who do not join the outside union, and new men constantly coming in, who cannot be made to understand the labor board's decision, the company is hereby advised that it is its policy to select and employ men who are not prejudiced in their selection to that employee who has not been divided and who is not a member of an outside organization."

"It would seem to me, therefore, the course of action for the company to employ a representative of the A. F. of L. union and a representative of the company union."

As a result of the election contained in this letter the employees cast 600 votes for the company union and 600 for the A. F. of L. union.

When the conditions under which the election was held were reported to the National Labor Board, the board annulled the election on the ground that the circular letter violated the law by threatening victimization of employees by the employee free choice of representatives," positively prohibited by Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

This is a clear-cut decision. It should be a warning to other company union employers in their misguided efforts to nullify the labor section of the Recovery Act and defy the President of the United States, who administers it.

Individual Bargaining

The Petroleum Labor Policy Board's decision in the case of the Magnolia Petroleum Company of Fort Worth, Texas, is a notable defense of the collective bargaining principle set forth in the National Industrial Recovery Act. The weak part of the decision is its consideration of the individual contract.

According to the evidence, officials of the company induced its employees to surrender their right of collective bargaining, guaranteed by the Recovery Act, and persuaded them to favor a company union promoted by the company itself. The board decided that these were improper activities, designed to prevent the employees from exercising their right of collective bargaining and representation authorized by the statute.

To give the employees the opportunity to exercise the full legal rights, the board ordered an election with the ballot in such form as to authorize employees to vote for representatives of the company, or to authorize, for the company union, or to bargain individually with the company. It is the individual bargaining provision on the ballot which organized labor criticizes. On this point William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, has a statement commending the general decision of the board, said:

"Labor contends vigorously that Section 7-A provides for collective bargaining and not for individual bargaining. The labor provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act are designed to protect the right of conferring upon workers the right to bargain collectively rather than in their individual capacity."

The impracticability of individual contracts is made apparent when one considers that through individual agreements there may be as many different agreements as there are individuals to bargain with. An agreement in operation at a manufacturing or industrial plant should be a collective agreement, not a series of individual agreements. It must be a collective agreement applying to all workers subject to its provisions.

Individual agreements are impracticable and unworkable under the National Recovery Act. For this reason that part of the decision of the Petroleum Labor Policy Board pertaining to individual bargaining and individual agreements is misleading and impracticable."

Regarding the decision of the board that the ballot should be in such form as to authorize employees to vote for representatives of the company, or to authorize, for the company union, or to bargain individually with the company, it has a meaning. It means that "so far the election of representatives has meant little, as the employer has not been forced to enter into collective bargaining even after such representatives were elected."

It is that the decision "seeks to remedy this weakness of the law, and to make Section 7-A really effective."

Colorado Judge Prohibits Antiunion Employer from Using the Union Label

Denver, Colo.—Judge Calvert issued an order prohibiting the use of the union label by the Borden Baking Company, operator of the Monarch Baking Company, from using the union label in its advertising and in its sales efforts. The judge's order was issued after a hearing on the matter.

The injunction was a culmination of a long fight by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America to prevent the Borden Baking Company from using the union label. The company had acquired the label through the purchase of the Borden Baking Company.

Georgia Labor Joins With State University To Extend Public Education to the Masses

Atlanta, Ga.—The Atlanta Federation of Labor voted to support the Georgia State University, which is planning to extend public education to the masses. The federation is one of the many labor organizations in Georgia that are working to improve the lives of the people.

Code Conference on Shorter Hours And Pay Boost Called by Johnson

Continued Existence of Millions of Unemployed Lends Recovery Administrator to Impress Industrial Leaders with the Necessity of Providing Jobs for the Jobless and Increasing Mass Buying Power to Promote Prosperity.

Washington.—Hugh B. Johnson, Recovery Administrator, called a national conference of code authorities and trade associations to meet here on March 1 for a three-day meeting to consider the question of reducing the length of the work week and increasing the wages of the millions of working men and women who come under the code of fair competition established by authority of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

A. F. of L.'s Shorter Hours Demand General Johnson's action was taken following the demand of the American Federation of Labor that the maximum work week be reduced to 40 hours. Johnson said that the code authorities should consider the demand of the A. F. of L. to reduce the work week to 40 hours.

The A. F. of L. has also insisted that although the purpose of the Recovery Act is to increase the buying power of the masses, the fact is that the wages set up in the codes are so low that the purchasing power of the masses is being kept down. Johnson said that the code authorities should consider the demand of the A. F. of L. to increase the wages of the workers.

The conference will be opened by President Roosevelt, followed by a speech by General Johnson.

MORRISON PLANS FOR AFL 1934 CONVENTION IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco, Calif.—Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, announced today that the 1934 convention of the A. F. of L. will be held in San Francisco. Morrison said that the convention will be held at the Hotel California, and that it will be the largest convention ever held in the city.

BOILER MAKERS CHARTER SIXTY-FIVE NEW UNIONS

Kansas City, Mo.—J. W. Davis, assistant general president, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, announced today that the union has chartered 65 new unions in the past year. Davis said that the union is growing rapidly and that it is working to improve the lives of its members.

LONGVIEW CENTRAL BODY ORGANIZED; 600 MEMBERS

Longview, Tex.—The Longview Central Body of the American Federation of Labor was organized today with 600 members. The body was organized by the Longview Chapter of the A. F. of L., and it is working to improve the lives of its members.

IRON WORKERS, BARBERS, ORGANIZE IN WILMINGTON

Wilmington, Del.—Recognizing that under the National Industrial Recovery Act the workers have the right to organize, the Iron Workers and Barbers of Wilmington have organized a new union. The union is working to improve the lives of its members.

Fort Pierre Bricklayers Establish Strong Union

Fort Pierre, S. D.—A thriving local of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers Union of America was organized here today with 25 charter members. The union is working to improve the lives of its members.

Providence Window Washers Enroll in Union Movement

Providence, R. I.—A thriving window washers union was chartered here today by the International Union of Painters and Decorative Paperhangers. The union is working to improve the lives of its members.

Burlington Unions Elect Editor of Iowa Labor News

Burlington, Iowa.—The Burlington Trades and Labor Assembly elected P. L. Levine to the position of editor of the Burlington Labor News. Levine is a well-known labor leader and is working to improve the lives of his members.

Teamsters and Chauffeurs Organize in Douglas, Ariz.

Douglas, Ariz.—A thriving local of the Teamsters and Chauffeurs Union of America was organized here today with 25 charter members. The union is working to improve the lives of its members.

Arizona Labor Editor Chosen For State Compliance Board

Phoenix, Ariz.—General Hugh B. Johnson, Recovery Administrator, announced today that he has chosen a labor editor to serve on the Arizona State Compliance Board. The editor is a well-known labor leader and is working to improve the lives of his members.

TRUCK DRIVERS' UNION Green Indicts Hitler for Persecution Of Jews and German Trade Unionists

Membership Campaign Includes House to House Canvass to Enlist Support of Drivern' Wives

Worcester, Mass.—"Truck Drivers' and Chauffeurs' Local Union No. 170 has over 200 members and is growing strong."

A mass meeting of the union was addressed by Nathan Hurwitz of Boston, representing the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Steamfitters and Helpers of America, which Local 170 is affiliated.

Mr. Hurwitz counseled a house-to-house canvass, when it is not possible to meet. He pointed out, offered suggestions to most wives of truck drivers and explained to them the importance and necessity of the labor movement. Mr. Hurwitz stated that the housewives, who for many years have suffered materially from the small wages of their husbands, will find their hands have been compelled to work, and also realizing the benefits offered through trade unionism.

"By uniting your husbands, boys, roll up your sleeves and go to it," he said. "By uniting your husbands, you will form a splendid organization, and your drive is kept in it until you have relieved every truck driver in the city in your own way."

OAKLAND PAINTERS UNION ENROLLS 30 NEW MEMBERS

Bakers and Movie Operators Fight Low Wage Concerns

Oakland, Calif.—Oakland painters have 35 new members at their last meeting. The largest number initiated by the union at any one time in the history of the union was 20 members.

The union is working to improve the lives of its members. The union is also working to improve the lives of the community. The union is also working to improve the lives of the community.

Los Angeles Labor Board Orders Rubber Workers Election for Representatives

Goodrich and Firestone Officials Urge Employees to Vote Against A. F. of L. Union

Los Angeles, Calif.—The Los Angeles Regional Labor Board today ordered an election for representatives of the rubber workers in the Goodrich and Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. The board is working to improve the lives of its members.

68 OIL WORKERS JOIN UNION IN LONG BEACH

Milk Wagon Drivers Line Up Two Concerns for Union Shop

Long Beach, Calif.—The Long Beach Oil Workers' Union initiated 68 new members today. The union is working to improve the lives of its members.

THOMAS NOLAN BOILER MAKERS' OFFICER, DIES

65-Year-Old Veteran Passes Away At Portsmouth, W. Va., While Ailing

Portsmouth, Va.—Thomas Nolan, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, died today at the age of 65. He was a well-known labor leader and is working to improve the lives of his members.

UNION WINS BACK PAY AWARD FOR WAITRESSES

Yanover, B. C., Canada—Judge McIntosh in the County Court for five awarded \$147 in wage claims for five waitresses who had been denied their wages for the past several months. The waitresses were working for the Yanover Hotel and Restaurant.

ALL OMAHA BREWERIES WON FOR UNION SHOP

Omaha, Neb.—Organized labor here was elated by the announcement of the Omaha Breweries' decision to join the Union Shop. The union is working to improve the lives of its members.

San Rafael Draft Workers Union Boosts Membership

San Rafael, Calif.—Members of the San Rafael Draft Workers' Union are working to improve the lives of its members. The union is also working to improve the lives of the community.

Green Indicts Hitler for Persecution Of Jews and German Trade Unionists

A. F. of L. Chief Cites Destruction of Labor Movement and Confiscation of Labor Rights and Millions of Dollars of Trade Union Property in Justification of Boycott of German Goods and Services.

New York.—A blistering indictment of Chancellor Hitler's Fascist Government in Germany for its brutal persecution of the Jewish people and its wanton destruction of the democratic German trade union movement, issued today by the American Federation of Labor, was signed by William Green, president of the A. F. of L.

Green said that the German government had established a police state, which had confiscated the property of the labor movement and had confiscated the property of the labor movement.

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